

Decision Notice
And
Finding of No Significant Impact
For
Sportsman's Bridge Fishing Access Site
Redevelopment

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Region One
490 N. Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

Description of the Proposed Action:

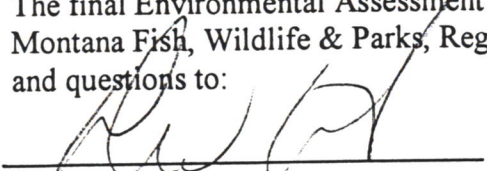
The proposed project is to construct a deep-water concrete boat ramp into the Flathead River and replace the present vault toilet with one that will be accessible to the handicapped. Also, because of the sharp, steep entrance to the site at the intersection with Highway 82, paving of the entrance road is necessary for safety and maintenance.

At Sportsman's Bridge there is presently a concrete boat ramp into a lagoon which provides access into the Flathead River for approximately six months of the year. This lagoon needs to be dredged to be kept viable. In 1994 it was agreed that the lagoon would be allowed to silt in naturally, and that no future permit for maintenance would be issued. With this project, river access will be available year-round, and the existing lagoon will no longer be needed for access.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

Based on the analysis in the Environmental Assessment, I find Alternative 2, development of a concrete ramp into Flathead River, paving the access road, and replacing the existing vault toilet, to be the preferred alternative. This alternative will upgrade a heavily used boating and fishing access facility for Montana residents and their guests and provide year-round access to the lower Flathead River and northern Flathead Lake. It will also replace the existing lagoon when it silts in and is no longer usable. The lagoon will not be reclaimed due to environmental considerations. Upgrading the vault toilet will make the site more usable by the handicapped, and paving the access road will eliminate the washboard surface, which currently requires extensive grading. I have evaluated the EA and applicable laws, regulations, and policies, and have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

The final Environmental Assessment and the FONSI may be viewed at or obtained from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region One, Kalispell, Montana. Please direct requests and questions to:



Dan Vincent, Regional Supervisor
490 N. Meridian Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406 752-5501)

1/25/00
Date

Flathead